

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 2003P01085WOUS

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please enter the enclosed replacement drawing sheet in the present application.

REMARKS

A petition to extend the time for response by one (1) month is enclosed herewith.

Claims 9-16 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 9-16 are currently amended.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's granting an interview on 22 October 2008. During the discussion, UK Patent No. GB 2375812A to Hoyle (Hoyle '812A) was discussed. In addition, the language of Claim 9 was mutually agreed to be confusing and the Applicant will cancel or substantially amend Claim 9 to expedite examination. Further amendment will be made to the dependent claims to add structural features. Although no agreement was reached regarding patentability, a better understanding of the invention was achieved.

The drawing is under objection for the use of multiple call-out numbers directed to a single feature. The present drawing has been amended to correct the use of such call-outs and a new drawing sheet presented herewith. It is respectfully asserted that the drawing objection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 9-16 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting. Accordingly, the Applicant has provided a terminal disclaimer herewith for entry in the present application to overcome the obviousness-type double patent rejection.

The Official Action notes the use of "means" language, thereby invoking 35 USC § 112, sixth paragraph. Claim 9 has been amended without the use of "means for" language.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being assertedly indefinite. The present amendment to Claim 9 has canceled the language giving rise to the rejection, and therefore the rejection should now be considered moot and accordingly should be withdrawn.

Substantively, the claims stand rejected under the cited prior art of record. Specifically, Claims 9-16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoyle '812A.

Independent Claim 9 recites a dishwasher including a washing basket and an air guidance system defining a closed air flow path extending from a first portion of the washing basket to a second portion of the washing basket, the air guidance system being connected to the washing basket in fluid communication therewith for receiving air in a first condition from the washing basket and for delivering air in a second condition, with the second condition being different from the first condition, from the guidance system to the washing basket. At least one Peltier element is operatively associated with the air guidance system and is disposed within the closed air flow path in a manner wherein a cooling side of the Peltier element is disposed within the air flow path and is configured for removing heat energy from and thereby drying air in a first condition passing thereacross, and a second warming side of the Peltier element is disposed downstream of the first cooling side of the Peltier element in the closed air path for adding heat energy to the air dried by the cooling side of the Peltier element passing thereacross resulting in air in a second condition for delivery to the washing basket.

Hoyle '812A is directed to a clothes dryer, with reference to Figure 1, including a heat exchanger 2 configured for extracting heat from the clothes dryer exhaust stream for use to heat input air for use in the clothes dryer drum 4. The heated air entering the drum 4 helps to dry the clothes and the moisture-laden air then passes out through an air outlet. (p. 4, lines 15-25). The system is an open system and the air is not reused in the drum 4. A condenser unit 6 includes a heat pump 10 which extracts further heat from the exhaust air and transmits the extracted heat to the inlet passage 1 upstream of the heater 3 (p. 4, line 26; p. 5, lines 1-3). It is noted that the heat pump 10 may be a Peltier device (p. 2, lines 607).

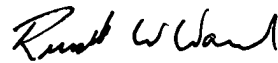
Hoyle '812A discloses an open system wherein exhaust gas is further heated by a heat pump then exhausted to atmosphere. The heat pump then injects heat into the dryer air stream upstream of the heater, as seen in the drawing. Air taken from the drying chamber is not reheated by the heat pump. This stands in contrast to the present invention that includes a closed system wherein the same airstream is acted on by both sides of the Peltier element and then reintroduced into the washing basket, as set forth in the amended claims presented herein.

For these and other reasons, Hoyle '812A does not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by independent Claim 9. Therefore, Claim 9 is allowable. Claims 10-16 depend from Claim 9 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 9-16 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



Russell W. Warnock

Registration No. 32,860

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BSH Home Appliances Corporation
100 Bosch Blvd.
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: 252-672-7927
Fax: 714-845-2807
russ.warnock@bshg.com